From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: FTC Reportedly Considering Whether to Increase Oversight for Mark Zuckerberg
Date: Friday, April 19, 2019 5:44:51 AM

By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- The Federal Trade Commission is examining whether to heighten its oversight of Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg's leadership as a part of its probe into the company's data lapses, according to two people familiar with the discussion, in a rare move for a case over a company's business practices regarding violations of users' privacy. Facebook said it hopes to reach an "appropriate and fair resolution" in the negotiations. (The Washington Post)

- Sprint Corp. said in a partly redacted filing with the Federal Communications Commission that its business performance isn't strong enough for the company to survive on its own as its proposed merger with T-Mobile US Inc. faces growing regulatory scrutiny. The company noted it

had lost postpaid handset connections, or customers who do not pay their monthly accounts in advance, last quarter, according to the filing, clarifying that its reported results for the last three months of 2018 were "incomplete" and that recent net postpaid connection gains were driven by free lines given to existing customers. (The Wall Street Journal)

- Foxconn Technology Group said it is still committed to building a display plant and tech research facilities in Wisconsin after Gov. Tony Evers, who inherited the deal when he took office in January, said he wanted to renegotiate. The deal, established in 2017, would give Foxconn $4 billion in tax breaks and other incentives; however, Evers has called into question whether the firm can reach its job creation goals for the state. (Reuters)

Chart Review

Silicon Valley's Most and Least Diverse Venture Capital Firms
Zoë Bernard, The Information

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

04/19/2019

LocoMoco Security Conference

04/25/2019

Broadcom's Mission to Modernize 2019 8:30 am

View full calendar

The Brands That Define American Culture and Commerce

Morning Consult analyzed over 400,000 survey interviews to determine this year's rankings. See who made the list.

General

Facebook may have broken the law by harvesting 1.5 million users' email contacts, experts say
Rob Price, Business Insider

Facebook harvested 1.5 million users' email contact data without their consent, and experts say that in doing so the company may have violated American and European Union laws.

Tesla and Elon Musk Are Given Week to Reach Accord With S.E.C.
The New York Times

Elon Musk has another week to work out his latest dispute with the Securities and Exchange Commission. A federal judge on Thursday granted a request by the two sides for more time to resolve a fight over whether Mr. Musk, Tesla's chief executive, had violated an earlier settlement with the commission governing his public statements about the company's finances.

Uber Clinches $1 Billion Investment in Self-Driving-Car Unit
Eliot Brown, The Wall Street Journal

Uber Technologies Inc. on Thursday said it struck a deal with a group including SoftBank Group Corp.'s tech fund for a $1 billion investment in its self-driving-car unit as the ride-hailing company prepares for an initial public offering.

Uber Launches New Safety Features as It's Being Sued by Assault Victims
Patrick Howell O'Neill, Gizmodo

It's one of those horrors that most men don't think about but women regularly have to. Three weeks ago, a man was charged with murdering Samantha Josephson, a University of South Carolina student, who may have thought the killer's car was an Uber.

Big Tech's shifting lobbying army
David McCabe, Axios

The fast-evolving internet ecosystem is changing how tech companies form alliances to lobby policy-makers in Washington.

Refused U.S. Visa Eight Times, Zoom CEO Is Now a Billionaire
Benjamin Stupples, Bloomberg

After hearing Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates give a speech about the internet three decades ago, Eric Yuan decided he wanted to become part of the Silicon Valley dot-com boom. Then the China-born entrepreneur hit a snag.

Stocks Mixed in Holiday Hit Trading; Dollar Steady: Markets Wrap
Cormac Mullen and Todd White, Bloomberg

Stocks in Asia traded mixed Friday after modest gains in their U.S. counterparts, ahead of a holiday weekend in many countries. The dollar was little changed.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

HBO wants Trump to stop making 'Game of Thrones'-style tweets, 'though we can understand the enthusiasm'
Kevin Breuninger, CNBC

President Donald Trump on Thursday used imagery inspired by HBO's "Game of Thrones" to sell his political messages without the network's permission - again. And once again, HBO wants him to cut it out.

Telecom, Wireless and TV

In Letters To Senate, Wireless Carriers Downplay Their Latest Location Data Scandal
Karl Bode, Motherboard

The nation's biggest wireless carriers this week downplayed revelations that they've been tricked into handing over sensitive customer data by scammers posing as law enforcement. The practice was first uncovered in a Motherboard investigation culminating in a Congressional inquiry into the companies' business practices.

What this week's Apple-Qualcomm-Intel dance means for the future of 5G
Brian Fung, The Washington Post

The market for a critical component in next-generation smartphones is undergoing a dramatic shift at the dawn of the 5G era. At its center is

Qualcomm, the silicon chipmaker whose miniature modems help put the "phone" in iPhone.

Qualcomm's China Chip Joint Venture To Shut Down
Juro Osawa and Wayne Ma, The Information

A joint venture between Qualcomm and the government of a rural Chinese province to make server chips will wind down by the end of the month, according to 10 employees at the venture.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Hoaxes And Misinformation About The Mueller Report Are Already Spreading
Jane Lytvynenko and Craig Silverman, BuzzFeed News

The long-awaited report from special counsel Robert Mueller on Russian interference in the 2016 US election has been released. The report, which is nearly 400 pages, has been partially redacted.

Twitter's "Verified" Users Are Spreading Viral Misinformation
Ali Breland, Mother Jones

On Monday afternoon, as one of Europe's most famous landmarks was engulfed in flames from an accidental fire, a Twitter user with a MAGA hat clad profile picture and over 30,000 followers hit send on a post spreading baseless rumors of arson. "BREAKING: Workers at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris saying fire was intentionally set," read the tweet from Carmine Sabia.

Amazon and Google Strike Deal to Return YouTube Apps to Amazon Devices
Aisha Al-Muslim, The Wall Street Journal

Amazon.com Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google reached a deal to reintroduce in the coming months the YouTube app on Amazon devices and add the Prime Video app to Chromecast and Android TV, alleviating a battle between the tech titans as their businesses increasingly overlap.

TikTok Brings Chinese-Style Censorship to America's Tweens
David Ramli and Shelly Banjo, Bloomberg

The music video app owned by the Chinese startup Bytedance is like Facebook-but with a younger audience, more data mining, and different ideas about free speech.

After Social Media Bans, Militant Groups Found Ways to Remain
Sheera Frenkel and Ben Hubbard, The New York Times

In July 2013, a broadcaster affiliated with the Islamist group Hezbollah posted a threatening video on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. It featured gun-toting militants practicing an ambush to kidnap Israeli soldiers. The message: This is how we kill you.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Mueller's Reminder That Silicon Valley Isn't Ready for the Next Election
Eric Newcomer, Bloomberg

Reading Robert Mueller's report, it's hard not to feel like that frog who gets slowly boiled alive. Many of its most incendiary allegations had already been published elsewhere.

Mueller identified 'dozens' of US rallies organized by Russian troll farm
Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

Special counsel Robert Mueller in his highly-anticipated report said his team identified "dozens" of U.S. political rallies organized on social media by the Internet Research Agency (IRA), a Russian troll farm that was later indicted for attempting to interfere with the 2016 presidential election.

FBI's Facial Recognition Programs Under Fire Over Privacy, Accuracy Concerns
Jack Corrigan, Nextgov

The FBI still has not assessed whether its facial recognition systems meet privacy and accuracy standards nearly three years after a congressional watchdog-the Government Accountability Office-raised multiple concerns about the bureau's use of the tech.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

End Government Subsidies for Satellite TV Providers
Demetrios Karoutsos, Morning Consult

Government subsidies in business are rarely a good thing. Regardless of how well-intentioned, subsidies distort markets and, in the worst cases, amount to cronyism and governments picking winners and losers for political purposes.

Sprint and T-Mobile Brace for Disappointment
Elizabeth Winkler, The Wall Street Journal

Investors in T-Mobile and Sprint are praying for a deal. They may be disappointed.

Open data promotes citizen engagement at the local level
Afua Bruce, The Hill

The city of Los Angeles recently released three free apps for its citizens: one to report broken street lighting, one to make 311 requests and one to get early alerts about earthquakes. Though it may seem like the city is just following a trend to modernize, the apps are part of a much larger effort to spread awareness of the more than 1,100 datasets that the city has publicized for citizens to view, analyze and share.

Research Reports

Aggah Campaign: Bit.ly, BlogSpot, and Pastebin Used for C2 in Large Scale Campaign
Robert Falcone and Brittany Ash, Palo Alto Networks

In March 2019, Unit 42 began looking into an attack campaign that appeared to be primarily focused on organizations within a Middle Eastern country. Further analysis revealed that this activity is likely part of a much larger campaign impacting not only that region but also the United States, and throughout Europe and Asia.

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